

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00087 101437Z
ACTION SNM-02

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R 101415Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1815

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH CZECHOSLOVAK CENTRAL CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION
(CCA) OFFICIAL

VIENNA FOR DEA SAIC WALTZ AND NARCOTICS COORDINATOR ANDERSON,
SECSTATE FOR S/NM

1. EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR AT LUNCHEON ON JANUARY 7 WITH
CCA OFFICIAL JIRI SMRZ, RELAYED DATA ON SUSPECTED NARCOTICS
SMUGGLERS POSTELWAITE AND MCCABE, WARNED OF SETP-UP IN SE ASIA-
EUROPE TRAFFICKING DURING REMAINDER OF JANUARY, AND CITED DECEMBER
14TH HEROIN SEIZURE AT HELSINKI AIRPORT. SMRZ ACCEPTED
INFORMATION WITH GRATITUDE, ASKED THAT HE BE INFORMED OF ANY
FURTHER AVAILABLE DETAILS ON SUSPECTED TRAFFICKING VIA THE PRAGUE
AIRPORT, AND PROMISED TO INFORM THE EMBASSY OF ANY SEIZURES MADE.

2. NARCOTICS COORDINATOR ALSO REOPENED SUBJECT OF INFORMAL VISIT
TO PRAGUE OF DEA SAIC WALTZ AND EXPLAINED THAT PREVIOUS REQUEST
HAD BEEN EFFECTIVELY NEGATED BY SMRZ'S SUPERVISOR, JSEF SZNIAWSKI,
WHO STATED THAT ANY SUCH VISIT WOULD HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. SMRZ EXPRESSED SOME DISMAY AT HIS
BUREAUCRACY AND SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH
MR. WALTZ--ADDING THAT EARLY MARCH WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNE TIME.

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3. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME VISIT OF SAIC WALTZ DURING
MONTH OF MARCH WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT, SHOULD HE DECIDE TO COME TO
PRAGUE, THE FOLLOWING OBTAINS:

A. A TOURIST VISA SHOULD BE OBTAINED--WITH NO MENTION OF
MEETINGS WITH GOC OFFICIALS.

B. THE MEETING WITH MR. SMRZ WOULD BE PURELY INFORMAL, WORKING LEVEL SESSION. SMRZ IS A KEY OFFICIAL AT PRAGUE AIRPORT RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTROL OF SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES AND IS INTERESTED IN OBTAINING INFORMATION FROM AND IN COOPERATING WITH US NARCOTICS CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES. HOWEVER, HIS DISCREET COOPERATION, BASED ON A DESIRE TO DO AN EFFECTIVE JOB AND ON AN ADMIRATION FOR WESTERN EFFICIENCY AND TECHNOLOGY, CAN IN NO WAY BE INTERPRETED AS A CHANGE IN THE OFFICIAL CCA POLICY ON COOPERATION WITH WESTERN AGENCIES. INDEED, AS POINTED OUT TO MR. WALTZ BY THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR IN A RECENT TELCONVERSATION, THE CCA IS STILL RELUCTANT TO EXTEND WESTERN CONTACTS OUTSIDE CUSTOMS COOPERATION COUNCIL FORUM. HOWEVER, THE DISCREET CULTIVATION OF MR. SMRZ COULD MEET DEA'S LIMITED GOAL OF DEVELOPING A RELIABLE WORKING-LEVEL CONTACT WHO COULD RESPOND TO OUR PROVISION OF INTELLIGENCE DATA AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK INFORMATION ON NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING VIA CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

BYRNE

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